

REMARKS

Upon entry of this Response, claims 1, 5 and 8 will have been amended to correct informalities in the claim language and to more clearly define the claimed subject matter. However, Applicants submit that the amendment should not be construed as admissions to the propriety of the Examiner's rejection. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments herein are in conformance with the originally filed disclosure and does not constitute new matter. Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

As an initial matter, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for re-mailing the Final Official Action dated February 6, 2006, and for setting a new period for responding thereto.

In the Office Action dated May 22, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over ROBINSON et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,315,161) in view of KIKUCHI et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,038,515). The Examiner also rejected claims 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over ROBINSON et al. in view of KIKUCHI et al., and further in view of BILIR (U.S. Patent No. 5,923,099). The Examiner further rejected claims 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over ROBINSON et al. in view of KIKUCHI et al. and BILIR, and further in view of FUKUZAWA (Japanese Patent Publication No. JP06-067749). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

The Examiner asserts in the Official Action that ROBINSON et al. disclose a method for controlling a microcomputer in a microcomputer system with a high speed operation mode and a low speed operation mode, the microcomputer system including

a clock operable in the high and the low speed operation modes and a backup power supply for supplying the clock with power for a predetermined time, said method comprising: detecting a power shutdown; determining whether power is recovered within a given time period; and switching to the high speed operation mode in response to determining that the power is recovered within the given time period, wherein the clock measures the given time period in the low speed operation mode. The Examiner admits that ROBINSON et al. fail to disclose switching from the high speed operation mode to the low speed operation mode in response to detecting the power shutdown. Thus, the Examiner relies on KIKUCHI et al. and asserts that KIKUCHI et al. teach switching the portable terminal apparatus to operation state 4 when the user turns the power supply unit 1 OFF to prevent erroneous operation due to decrease of a power supply voltage, and thus stored data and programs can be prevented from being destroyed, and reliability is ensured.

Applicants respectfully note that KIKUCHI et al. only teach that the processing detecting section 11 determines that a user turns OFF the power supply unit 1. However, KIKUCHI et al fail to disclose or even suggest that the portable terminal apparatus switches its operation state from the high speed operation mode to the low speed operation mode in response to detecting a disconnection of the portable terminal from a power supply. Rather, in KIKUCHI et al., the processing detecting section 11 merely determines that a user turns OFF the power supply unit 1 and the operation state is switched in response to a user's command to turn OFF the power supply unit 1. See col. 7, lines 55-67.

In direct contrast, the method for controlling a microcomputer system of the present invention detects when an AC power supply is removed or disconnected (such as by, e.g., disconnection of a power cord from an outlet) from the system and switches the operation status from the high speed operation mode to the low speed operation mode in response to detecting such disconnection. See, for example, page 7, lines 9-10 in the specification. Therefore, KIKUCHI et al. does not overcome the deficiency of the primary reference.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of ROBINSON et al. and KIKUCHI et al., asserted by the Examiner, fails to disclose or even suggest a method for controlling a microcomputer which includes detecting a "disconnection" of the microcomputer system from a power supply and switching from a high speed operation mode to a low speed operation mode in response to detecting the disconnection from the power supply, as recited in Applicants' independent claim 1.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the grounds for the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of independent claim 1 no longer exist, and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of independent claim 1.

Dependent claims 3 and 4 are respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 1.

Similarly, with regard to independent claims 5 and 8, for at least above-noted reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the grounds for the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of independent claims 5 and 8 no longer exist, and respectfully request

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withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of independent claims 5 and 8. Since claims 6-7 and 9 depend from claim 5 and 8, respectively, these claims are also allowable.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

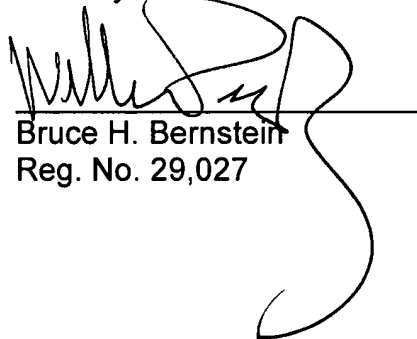
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Entry and consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate. Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present invention in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this Response, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Llewellyn YANCE et al.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce H. Bernstein', is written over a horizontal line. A large, stylized flourish extends from the bottom of the signature, looping down and to the right.

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